

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 /102 W

----- 130554

R 100203Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1186

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP, PP

SUBJECT: FRANCO-PNG RELATIONS

REF: 75 PORT MORESBY 498

1. FRENCH STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BERNARD  
DESTREMAU ACCOMPANIED BY TWO SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS  
SPENT THREE DAYS IN PORT MORESBY LAST WEEK DISCUSSING PNG'S  
APPLICATION FOR LOME CONVENTION AND FRENCH DIPLOMATIC  
REPRESENTATION IN PORT MORESBY. FRENCH GOVT SOUGHT PNG  
PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH MISSION HERE IN MAY 1975, BUT GPNG  
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REFUSED, OBJECTING (A) TO FRANCE'S TREATMENT OF ITS COLONIAL

POSSESSION IN PACIFIC AND (B) TO FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC. AUSTRALIANS AT THE TIME WARNED GPNG THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS SNUB QUIETLY.

2. WHEN FONMIN KIKI WAS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA SOLICITING SUPPORT FOR PNG'S ADMISSION TO LOME CONVENTION, HE REPORTEDLY ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION FROM FRENCH, WHO, ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIANS, INTERPOSED VARIOUS TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS. DESTREMAU'S VISIT WAS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO LINK THE TWO MATTERS VERY SPECIFICALLY: IF PNG EXPECTED FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE LOME CONVENTION, IT WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT A FRENCH EMBASSY IN PORT MORESBY. ONE OF THE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING DESTREMAU TOLD ME FRANCE WAS ALL SET TO OPEN ITS MISSION HERE AND ONLY THE NOD FROM THE GPNG WAS NEEDED.

3. FRANCE'S PERSISTENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A MISSION IN PNG IS PUZZLING. THE CONSENSUS IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS THAT FRANCE IS CONCERNED THAT PNG MIGHT EXTEND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO INDEPENDENCE REGIMES IN NEW HEBRIDES, OR WORSE, IN NEW CALEDONIA, AND FURTHER, THAT PNG'S RECOGNITION MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (AFTER INDEPENDENCE) AND FIJI TO FOLLOW SUIT. HENCE, ACCORDING TO THIS LINE OF REASONING, FRANCE WANTS A MISSION HERE TO FORESTALL ANY STEPS GPNG MIGHT CONSIDER TOWARDS RECOGNITION OF FRENCH POSSESSIONS.

4. FOR PARIS: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON ABOVE THESIS.

5. FOR USEC: IF THERE ARE OTHER OBSTACLES TO PNG'S ADMISSION TO LOME CONVENTION, AND IF FRANCE'S ROLE IS BEING EXAGGERATED HERE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU PUT THE MATTER IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. PRESS REPORTS ITALY, BELGIUM, AND FRANCE ALL HOLDING BACK ON PNG APPLICATION UNTIL EEC DECIDES WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE GEOGRAPHICAL AND FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS OF AID PACT.

6. COMMENT: IF LOCAL VIEWS ARE CORRECT, FRANCE IS TEACHING PNG SOME OF THE HARSH REALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, NUCLEAR TESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PORTM00093  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760049-1090  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 PORT MORESBY 498  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAR 2004  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRANCO-PNG RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PP, (DESTREMAU, BERNARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006